

Exercise “Gaunilo’s Arguments”

Prove that the Perfect Computer exists in reality

1.	The Perfect Computer is the greatest possible computer	Definition
2.	The Perfect Computer could not be greater than it is	(1)
3.	The Perfect Computer exists in the mind	(1)
4.	To exist in reality is greater than to exist in the mind only	Premise
5.	If some thing exists only in the mind then it could be greater than it is	(4)
6.1	Suppose: The Perfect Computer does not exist in reality	Supposition(<i>reductio</i>)
6.2.	The Perfect Computer exists only in the mind	(6.1), (3)
6.3.	The Perfect Computer could be greater than it is	(6.2), (5)
6.4.	Contradiction!	(6.3), (2)
7.	The Perfect Computer exists in reality	rejection of 6.1 – it leads to absurdity

Prove that the Perfect Horse exists in reality

1.	The Perfect Horse is the greatest possible horse	Definition
2.	The Perfect Horse could not be greater than it is	(1)
3.	The Perfect Horse exists in the mind	(1)
4.	To exist in reality is greater than to exist in the mind only	Premise
5.	If some thing exists only in the mind then it could be greater than it is	(4)
6.1	Suppose: The Perfect Horse does not exist in reality	Supposition(<i>reductio</i>)
6.2.	The Perfect Horse exists only in the mind	(6.1), (3)
6.3.	The Perfect Horse could be greater than it is	(6.2), (5)
6.4.	Contradiction!	(6.3), (2)
7.	The Perfect Horse exists in reality	rejection of 6.1 – it leads to absurdity

Prove that the Perfect Husband exists in reality

1.	The Perfect Husband is the greatest possible husband	Definition
2.	The Perfect Husband could not be greater than it is	(1)
3.	The Perfect Husband exists in the mind	(1)
4.	To exist in reality is greater than to exist in the mind only	Premise
5.	If some thing exists only in the mind then it could be greater than it is	(4)
6.1	Suppose: The Perfect Husband does not exist in reality	Supposition(<i>reductio</i>)
6.2.	The Perfect Husband exists only in the mind	(6.1), (3)
6.3.	The Perfect Husband could be greater than it is	(6.2), (5)
6.4.	Contradiction!	(6.3), (2)
7.	The Perfect Husband exists in reality	rejection of 6.1 – it leads to absurdity

Prove that the Perfect Wife exists in reality

1.	The Perfect Wife is the greatest possible wife	Definition
2.	The Perfect Wife could not be greater than it is	(1)
3.	The Perfect Wife exists in the mind	(1)
4.	To exist in reality is greater than to exist in the mind only	Premise
5.	If some thing exists only in the mind then it could be greater than it is	(4)
6.1	Suppose: The Perfect Wife does not exist in reality	Supposition(<i>reductio</i>)
6.2.	The Perfect Wife exists only in the mind	(6.1), (3)
6.3.	The Perfect Wife could be greater than it is	(6.2), (5)
6.4.	Contradiction!	(6.3), (2)
7.	The Perfect Wife exists in reality	rejection of 6.1 – it leads to absurdity